



THE PROBLEM OF CVD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Cardiovascular disease causes over one third of all deaths in South Carolina, making it the leading cause of death in the Palmetto State. During 2001, 13,159 South Carolinians died from cardiovascular disease.

CVD is South Carolina's leading killer for both men and women among all racial and ethnic groups.

African Americans face higher risks of developing heart disease and suffer stroke deaths more often than do Caucasians. These higher illness rates result in ten years of lost life for African Americans in South Carolina and a stroke rate that is 50 percent higher than the national average.

In 2001, cardiovascular disease alone was responsible for hospital charges totaling \$1.8 billion (primary diagnosis of CVD) in South Carolina.

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South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

Division of Cardiovascular Health

OUR MISSION
OUR PLAN
OUR STRATEGIES...

♥ The Heart of South Carolina ♥



WHO WE ARE

The Division of Cardiovascular Health is located within the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and is part of a network of chronic disease prevention programs working towards improving the health of our communities across South Carolina.

OUR MISSION

To prevent and reduce heart disease and stroke in South Carolina. Our focus is on promoting policy, systems, and environmental changes in the areas of awareness of heart attack and stroke signs and symptoms, 911 and CPR use, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. These efforts are greatly needed to help improve cardiovascular health for South Carolina's citizens.

OUR PLAN

Based on the overwhelming toll that CVD takes on its citizens, the CVH Division, in collaboration with its partners, is implementing a plan of action to address the challenges of this disease. We are engaged in a variety of activities that support efforts to:

- Increase awareness of heart attack and stroke signs and symptoms and the need to call 911;
- Increase blood pressure screening and control of high blood pressure;
- Increase cholesterol screening and control of high cholesterol;
- Improve quality of care for heart disease and stroke.

OUR STRATEGIES

- Develop and coordinate state-wide partnerships to support cardiovascular health;
- Develop a long-term State Plan for CVH;
- Implement intervention strategies to improve cardiovascular health through health district grants;
- Support and expand public health professional development and education;

- Develop and implement secondary prevention strategies in collaboration with healthcare providers;
- Develop and expand the scientific capacity to define and target the CVD problem.

WHAT IS CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE?

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) includes a wide variety of disease of the heart and blood vessels, including heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure. Cardiovascular disease morbidity and mortality both increase with age and our state's population is aging rapidly. Those who suffer from, but do not die of, cardiovascular disease will almost certainly suffer a reduced quality of life because CVD prevents its victims from living their lives on their own terms. It is important to know and reduce risk factors, to know warning signs, know how to respond quickly and properly if warning signs occur, and to follow recommended practice guidelines when treating CVD.

